

Johnson, Patrick

From: texas.xephyr@gmail.com on behalf of Chris Burton <chris.burton@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:59 AM
To: District Applications
Subject: Application for Redistricting Commission
Attachments: FINAL ENGLISH FILLABLE Commission Application FORM.pdf

Folks --

Please find attached application for the Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

Thank you,
Chris Burton

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov
by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

16030

*Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER
AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE**

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
 - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
 - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
 - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
 - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

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Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Burton Christopher Sean
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1133167838

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

2512 Friar Tuck Ln Austin TX 78704
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-585-5071

Contact Email Address: chris.burton@earthlink.net

Spouse's Name: Pacheco Antares Elizabeth
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-01-29A11:21 RCVD

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Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In the last City Election did you or your spouse:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Personal Background Information

- **Ethnicity:** English
- **Race:** Western European
- **Gender:** ☒ Male ☐ Female
- **Age: (Please check your response)**
☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☒ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+
- **Education level: (Please check any that apply)**
☒ High School Diploma or GED
☒ Some College (major Electrical Engineering)
☐ Associate's Degree (major _____)
☐ Bachelor's Degree (major _____)
☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject _____)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

I have been a professional software developer for twenty years. What I do is translate user requests and owner designs into code and data specifications that machines understand. This requires that I be able to analyze larger processes, complex human interactions, record keeping, and business models in a way that allows for observation, regulation, manipulation, and quality assurance. I look at large sets of data every day, and determine ways to get actionable information to the people who need them, in ways that work best for their tasks.

Over the last four years, I have been the technical manager for a small, local reference lab. My job is to understand every process, every interaction, and every possibility for variation or error, and ensure that the management software matches the business processes. I validate the scales and measures used to categorize and reference the data -- which includes the complex interrelationships between clients, and their locations in both civil and environmental terms. I'm comfortable with large, complex data sets and have spearheaded several large database conversion projects.

I also have experience using the Google Maps API to create maps that show data and data trends. Showing data in terms of geographical relationships provides a remarkable clarity, enabling faster comprehension of meaning. The Google Maps API is extensive, and can enable a level of verification previously only available after many hours of charting.

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

The worst outcome for this project would be a set of gerrymandered districts, drawn to favor some over others. Democracy is better supported by compact districts that reflect whole communities and subdivisions. It is vital that this commission creates districts that truly reflect the constituent neighborhoods. I'll do everything possible to make certain that district lines are as fair, and as obvious, as possible.

I enjoy playing board games with friends: fair competition, with everyone playing by the same rules, is very important to me. I want every citizen of this city to know their council member as a neighbor, and to give every citizen a representative that drives the same roads, uses the same schools, and pays the same taxes as they do.

These district lines are more important than any one or set of political issues, because well formed districts are our best defense against attempts to hijack the council. If we set the representation up right, all the various political issues of today and tomorrow can all be resolved in a way that best reflects the desires of the citizens. If we let these district lines be drawn through a misguided attempt to achieve political hegemony, the result will be a weak council, unable to adequately represent the citizens.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

In my 24 years of living in Austin, I've lived in five different neighborhoods, and have had friends in these and in nearly every other neighborhood in town. I'm a history buff and a map enthusiast, and have enjoyed learning about how this city -- especially South Austin -- developed since it was established. I've hiked many of the preserves and parks around town, traced the creeks, and climbed the hills. This city, its roads and bridges, sidewalks and creeks, has fascinated me since my first visit. I've been delighted and proud to raise my daughter here, and look forward to many years to come as part of my community and my city.

The rich mosaic of international cultures here reflects overlapped phases of immigration into this state. While some have arrived only recently, others have centuries of established tradition and history here. Yet we all come together to educate our children, improve our park lands, and swim in Barton Springs and Deep Eddy. This mix of distinct, yet appreciated, cultures in so many contexts is part of what makes this such a vibrant city. Understanding how each group balances and compliments the others is an impossible task, but comprehending the city as a collection of neighborhoods is entirely possible.

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Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

I expect that this will be a difficult and complex task, and I anticipate it's one that will generate hurt feelings and acrimony no matter what the final result may be. Having to face an unhappy public as a member of this commission is as near a certainty as I could imagine. Despite this, I feel that I have the right skills to help make the best possible map for the city, and a love for this city great enough to want to endure whatever criticism followed if it meant that we could have the best possible district boundaries.

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DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

Christopher S. Burton

Signature of Applicant

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

1/29/13

Date

GLOSSARY

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

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- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
 - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
 - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
 - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
 - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
 - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

